



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **STOREFRONT 'CLERIC' ARRESTED ON CHILD PORN CHARGES**

*Cincinnati man is also a licensed school bus driver*

CINCINNATI – Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, and Brian Moskowitz, Special Agent-In-Charge for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Detroit, in conjunction with St. Bernard Police Chief Steven Moeller and Gerald O’Farrell, Assistant Inspector in Charge, United States Postal Inspection Service, announced the arrest here today of Robert Elms.

Elms, 49, surrendered this morning to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents. Elms, who goes by the name "Father Dominic Elms," has been charged in a federal complaint with possession and distribution of child pornography resulting from a Dec. 21 search of his storefront church residence at 4616 Tower Ave, Cincinnati, Ohio.

The investigation into Elms, who is licensed to drive a school bus for the Princeton School District in Ohio, began after the Bundeskriminalamt in Frankfurt, Germany began investigating a group of individuals who receive and distribute child pornography. The German authorities turned the information over to ICE agents at the ICE Cyber Crime Center (C3) in Fairfax, Va.

ICE agents executed a federal search warrant at Elms’ residence with assistance from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the St. Bernard Police Department. Agents seized three computers and numerous media, including formatted computer disks suspected of containing child pornography.

“Those who trade in child pornography are supporting the abuse and exploitation of the most innocent and vulnerable among us,” said Brian Moskowitz, special agent-in-charge for ICE investigations in Detroit, whose office oversees investigations in the Cincinnati resident agent-in-charge office. “ICE will not allow them to use cyberspace to hide this repugnant activity. We will use all of our investigative tools to identify these individuals and bring them to justice.”

Lockhart added, “The U.S. Attorney will work with ICE to ensure that this individual does not have the opportunity to continue to violate the law. People who assume that their use of the Internet or other technology will protect them from detection will be found, arrested, and prosecuted to the fullest extent.” Lockhart commended the joint efforts of all the agencies involved for their swift investigation and arrest.

This investigation and arrest are part of Operation Predator, a comprehensive Department of Homeland Security initiative to protect young people from child sex tourists, human smugglers and traffickers, child pornographers and international child sex tourists. Operation Predator draws on the full spectrum of intelligence, investigative, cyber, and detention and removal functions of ICE to target those who prey on children. Since Operation Predator began in July 2003, ICE has made more than 4,700 arrests nationwide, including 41 in Ohio.

Elms had his initial appearance in U.S. District Court before Magistrate Judge Timothy S. Black in Cincinnati today. He was ordered detained without bond and will have a formal detention hearing Dec. 30 at 1:30 p.m. before Magistrate Judge Black.

The case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Behlen of the Southern District of Ohio for presentation to the Federal Grand Jury.

Any person charged with a violation of the law is presumed innocent unless convicted in a court of law.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.*